

# Hawaii Navy News



Volume 25 Issue 19

Serving the "Best Homeport in the Navy"

May 12, 2000

## IN BRIEF

### PSD

The next Pass Liaison Representative (PLR) meeting is June 7 at 10 a.m. at Personnel Support Division (PSD) Pearl Harbor, bldg. 284 in the Classroom.

### Housing Self-Help Store to move

The Catlin Park self-help store for family housing will temporarily relocate beginning 16 May. The store's new location will be in building 4 (Diamond Head side) which is the former Navy Aloha Center facility.

The temporary move is necessary in order for repairs to be made to the self-help store building. The work is expected to be completed in mid-September.

The hours of operation and phone number will remain the same. For information, call Self-Help at 422-2287.

### Rome Galley reopens

The Naval Station Diosdado Rome Galley, Bldg 1557 will reopen for breakfast May 15. The galley will operate only on weekdays.

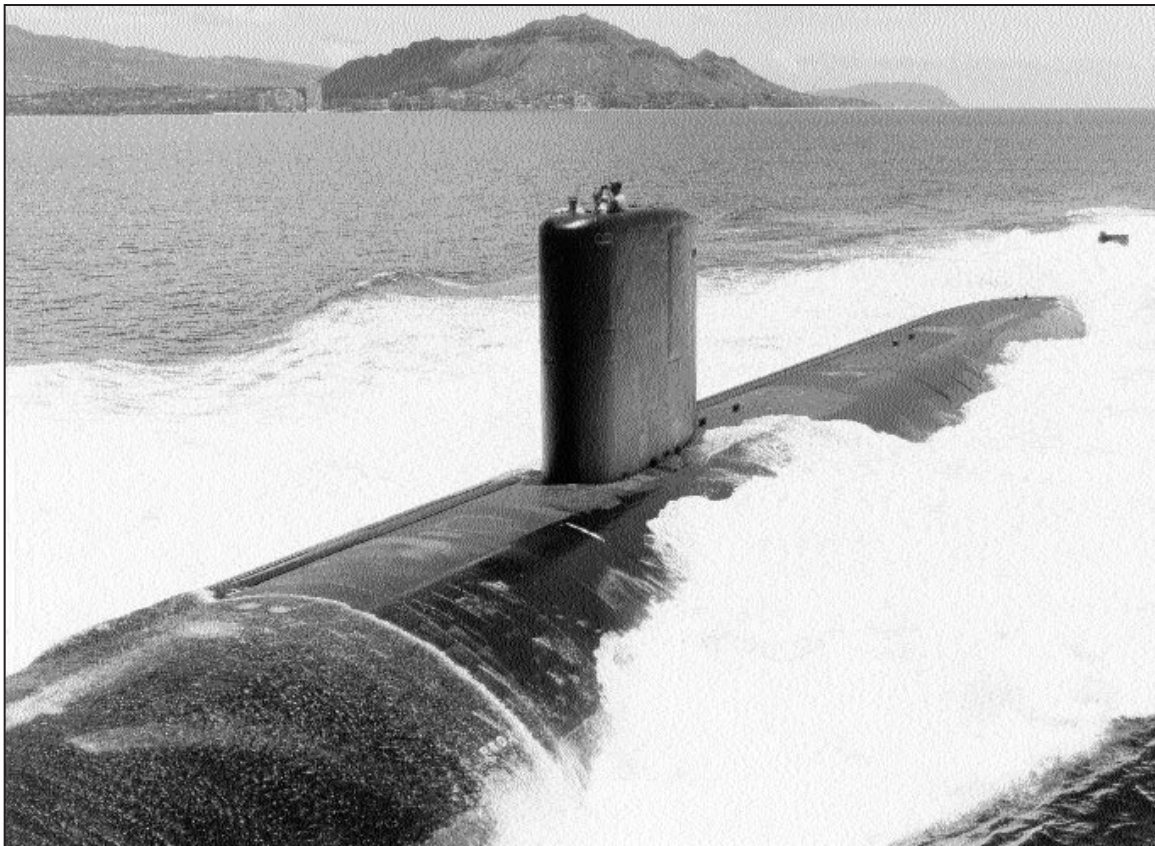
The Silver Dolphin Bistro will be the only galley open on weekends and holidays. Hours of operation are: weekdays only - Breakfast 5:45-7:15 a.m.; Lunch 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; Dinner 4:30-6 p.m.

### Free movies at Sharkey

Effective immediately all movies at the Sharkey Theater are free to all active duty personnel.

Present your military ID at the box office for admission. For movie times, call the movie hotline at 473-0726.

## USS Columbus deploys 50th ship 100 percent dental ready



file photo

USS Columbus Sailors said goodbye to family and friends Monday as they departed for a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific (WESTPAC). Columbus is a Los Angeles-class submarine equipped with sophisticated Advanced Capability (ADCAP) and MARK 48 anti-submarine/ship torpedoes, tomahawk and Harpoon cruise missiles. USS Columbus was the 50th ship to depart Pearl Harbor with 100 percent operational dental readiness.

By JOCS(SW) Darrell Ames and JOCS(SW) Phil Eggman

COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND NAVY REGION HAWAII

Family and friends said goodbye to loved ones stationed onboard USS Columbus (SSN 762) which departed Monday for a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific.

Columbus is a Los Angeles-class submarine equipped with sophisticated Advanced Capability (ADCAP) and MARK 48 anti-submarine/ship torpedoes, Tomahawk and Harpoon cruise missiles.

Submarines can cruise the world's oceans in stealth while carrying out a variety of missions and remain one of the most lethal weapons in the nation's arsenal.

Therefore, it is hard to believe that just one toothache could change all that.

"A dental emergency, while deployed, could develop into a major health threat and would adversely affect our schedule," said Lt. Cmdr Jeff Truffer, USS Columbus (SSN 762) executive officer. "In extreme cases the Sailor would probably have to be medically evacuated off the boat."

While no one can predict or totally eliminate an emergency, Columbus' 127 officers and crew can, nevertheless,

▼ See COLUMBUS, A-4

## NDCPH sets new standard in Naval Dentistry

By JOCS(SW) Phil Eggman

NAVY REGION HAWAII

How much does it cost you to go to a dentist?

Naval Dental Center Pearl Harbor (NDCPH) wants to show you.

"Sailors take for granted their dental benefit because it doesn't cost them anything," said Dental Technician 3rd Class Ashley Kelly, a 23-year-old native of Kershaw, South Carolina who works the reception desk at NDCPH. "We want to change that perception."

In fact, the entire staff at NDCPH is making it their business to teach Sailors the value of what they receive in dental care.

"We are educating our customers to understand the value of their dental

work," said Kelly "We show how much it would cost to get a cleaning, or a crown fabricated. Extracting one wisdom tooth might cost you \$500. Four would cost you \$2,000.

"That's value," he added.

"We started using a business model for our operations here," said Capt. Robert E. Hutto, Naval Dental Center Pearl Harbor commanding officer. "What this means is we looked at how much it would cost to provide services if we were a business off base providing dentistry, and then compare that cost with the value of the treatment we provide.

"This is not a rocket science," he continued. "It's about strategic planning and marketing. We tell the Sailors what we are doing and what we can do for them. We gain their cooperation,

making our team both internal and external."

Change began in 1997, when the previous commanding officer, Capt. Mike Patterson, challenged the command to apply for the Hawaii State Award of Excellence (HSAE). The award was created in 1994, based on the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award criteria examining leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, information and analysis, human resource development and management, process management and business results.

Since 1994, 42 organizations in Hawaii have applied for the HSAE and only eight achieved the 500-point achievement standard, the highest award level given to date. NDCPH achieved that standard on its first try.

"We proved we could compete with private industry," Hutto said. "By using a business approach, operating the same way that a dentist might operate off-base, we began to make a profit for Navy Medicine."

"Quality of dental care is good in the Navy," said Capt. George R. Hull, Navy Dental Center executive officer. "The problem is readiness. The key to improved readiness is maximizing your resources and being proactive using preventive measures. We work on the Sailors' schedule, by providing services at a time that works within his or her schedule, which better serves the needs of the Sailor and the fleet."

"Time is money," he continued. "We get as much done as we can on every

▼ See DENTAL, A-4

## Pearl Harbor SEALs introduce more capable delivery vehicle

Story and photo by JO3 Brenda Diggs

NAVY REGION HAWAII

Pearl Harbor SEAL Delivery Team One introduced, the first and only Advanced SEAL Delivery System vehicle (ASDS) May 5.

The battery-powered electric motor drive dry-submersible vessel is designed to carry SEALs to their objective area.

The ASDS is eight feet in diameter and weighs about 55 tons. It can be launched from Navy submarines, air transportable by C-5 or C-17, and land transportable.

"The ASDS will offer us enhanced undersea mobility capabilities for a wide range of special operations," said Lt. Cmdr. Bob Wilson, executive officer for SEAL Delivery Team One.

"The big advantage to this is we will be able to take the SEALs over a longer distance with more equipment and get them there dry. They will be fresh for the operation and have that much more capabilities."

The ASDS was built by Northrop Grumman Corporation and will be homported at the new ASDS Facility in Pearl City and once testing is complete, will be assigned to SDV Team One.

But for the next several months, the Navy and Northrop Grumman Corp. will be testing the military's newest and only minisubmarine.

"We have a testing program that will last a couple of months and that is going to progress," said Wilson.

"As that progresses then certain aspects of the ASDS will develop our procedures."

Currently, Navy SEAL teams are carried by converted nuclear submarines, such as the USS Kamehameha, and launched from platforms attached to the deck of the vessels, called dry-dock shelters, while submerged.

But these larger nuclear submarines can't always get in close, and those special-operations divers have to get suited up in scuba gear and remain in the water for long periods of time, according to Wilson.

The USS Charlotte (SSN 766) and USS Greenville (SSN 772) have been specially configured to serve as host ships for the ASDS vehicle, according to Lt. Cmdr. Dave Warner, Commander Submarine Pacific Fleet public Affairs Officer.

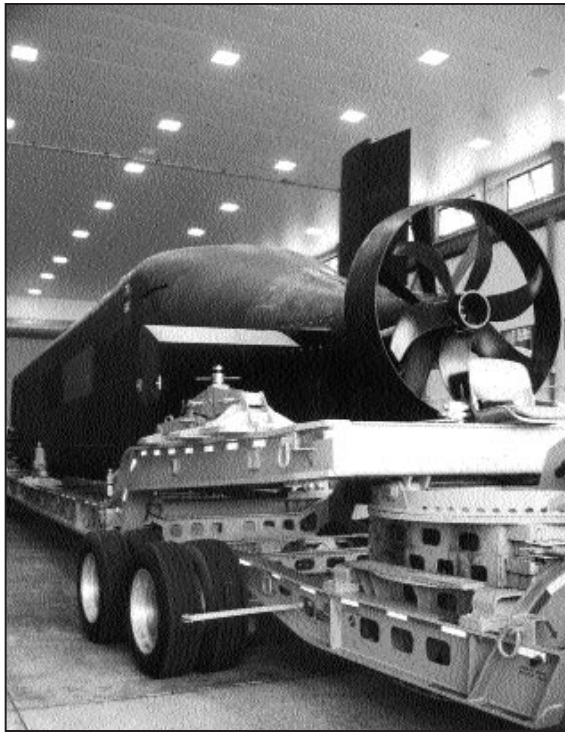
"What the system is going to provide us with the capabilities to keep the SEALs dry, allow them to get to the beach faster and more secure and with more capability."

"The ASDS is very quite, very effective in that the testing demonstrates that and it will give us unparalleled opportunity to be able to insert special forces into an area of concern safely, and give us significantly more capability," added Werner.

Cmdr. Joe Fallon, program manager for the Navy Sea Systems Command, said the minisub program was started in the late 1980s.

Only one vessel has been built so far, at a cost of \$230 million.

New Virginia-class submarines are currently being designed to carry ASDS.



The new Advanced SEAL Delivery System vehicle (ASDS) was introduced to the public May 5 by the SEAL Delivery Team One. The ASDS is a battery-powered electric motor drive dry-submersible vessel designed to carry SEALs to objective areas in a more capable way.

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